

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010926US1

PATENT

SECTION IV: REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the changes as noted above in Section I, Section II and Section III be made to the present application.

In the Office Action mailed 12/29/2005, the title was objected to as being non-descriptive. A new title has been provided which is believed to be more descriptive and allowable as herein amended.

The "Related Applications" paragraph in the specification has herein been amended to provide the most current information available for the related cross-referenced applications.

In the Office Action mailed 12/29/2005, claims 1, 2, 10-12, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Walker (U.S. Patent 6,263,505), claims 1, 10, 11, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ullman (Patent Application Publication US 2001/0037376), claims 3, 6, 8, 13, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Harrison (U.S. Patent 6,249,914), claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Harrison and in still further view of Johnson (Patent Application Publication US 2002/0010941), claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Harrison and in still further view of Allport (U.S. Patent 6,567,984) and claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Harrison and in still further view of Marcis (U.S. Patent 6,862,611).

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The above noted rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in order to further the prosecution of the present application, and without waiving any of applicant's rights to argue the allowability of the originally presented claims in a subsequent appeal or other proceeding in the event that the Examiner does not concur that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance, applicant has herein amended the claims to even further distinguish the claims from the cited references thereby placing the claims in condition for allowance.

All of the independent claims 1, 11 and 21, and therefore all of the remaining dependent claims as well, which include all of the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend as well as even further recitations of the dependent claim, have herein been amended to include the control device which includes a predetermined number of receptacles for receiving corresponding control units, with the receptacles being positioned in an array from a front portion to a back portion of the control device with the front portion being arranged for viewing by a user whereby only a display means of a front-most control unit is viewable by the user. It is submitted that none of the applied references discloses or even suggests such a control device as specified in the amended independent claims and through dependence in all of the dependent claims as well, and that therefore all of the currently pending claims 1, 3-11 and 13-21 are allowable under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 over the cited references. Claims 2 and 12 have herein been cancelled without prejudice with the belief that the substance of those claims is protected by the remaining claims.

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It should be noted that applicant is claiming only that the **total combination** of elements **and relationships** as recited in the claims as herein amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references. Applicant is aware the individual elements of any claim can be isolated, and, when standing alone, those elements can be found in existing references. The similarity of various pieces and parts of the references as noted on pages 2-11 of the above-identified Office Action have been noted but it is believed that there is **no suggestion or nexus among the references to even suggest any combination of those references or the total combination of elements and relationships as recited in the claims as herein amended**. Where there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references for the **specific total combination** of elements **and relationships** among those elements, as claimed by an applicant, it is submitted to be inappropriate to search the prior art using applicant's own disclosure as a recipe, to find piecemeal elements in prior art references for individual claimed elements, and then to combine those references in a manner disclosed only by the applicant in order to reject applicant's own claims. Thus, for the reasons stated above, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 10-12, 20 and 21 are allowable under 35 USC 102(e) over Walker, claims 1, 10, 11, 20 and 21 are allowable under 35 USC 102(e) over Ullman, claims 3, 6, 8, 13, 16 and 18 are allowable under 35 USC 103(a) over Walker in view of Harrison, claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 are allowable under 35 USC 103(a) over Walker in view of Harrison and in still further view of Johnson, claims 7 and 17 are allowable under 35 USC 103(a) over Walker in view of Harrison and in still further view of Allport and claims 9 and 19 are allowable under 35 USC 103(a) over Walker in view of Harrison and also in view of Marcis.

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Therefore, as herein presented, 1, 3-11 and 13-21 are believed to be in condition for allowance, an early notice of which is hereby requested. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting the allowance of this application, and especially if one or more new references are cited, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below, prior to the issuance of another Office Action, in order to allow the applicant the opportunity to further amend the claims by Supplemental Amendment or Examiner's Amendment, as may be appropriate, to place the claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner's attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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